CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to join the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

a substantially elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the middle portion has a curvature such that an angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion.

2. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the first phalange is selected from the group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

3. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the second phalange is selected from the group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

4. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the first end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into a proximal phalange.

5. The invention according to claim 4, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

6. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the first end portion has a surface portion for facilitating retention within a proximal phalange.

7. The invention according to claim 6, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

8. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into an intermediate phalange.

9. The invention according to claim 8, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

10. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion has a surface portion for facilitating retention within an intermediate phalange.

11. The invention according to claim 10, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

12. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the resorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, and combinations thereof.

13. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the member is substantially cylindrical.

14. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the angle is substantially anatomically correct.

15. A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to join the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

a substantially elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the first end portion and the second end portion have a surface portion for facilitating retention within the first phalange and the second phalange;

wherein the middle portion has a curvature such that an angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion;

wherein the angle is substantially anatomically correct.

16. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the first phalange is selected from the group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

17. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the second phalange is selected from the group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

18. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the first end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into a proximal phalange.

19. The invention according to claim 18, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

20. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the surface portion comprises a threaded surface.

21. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the second end portion has a surface portion for facilitating insertion into an intermediate phalange.

22. The invention according to claim 21, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

23. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the surface portion comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of shoulders, ribs, helixes, and combinations thereof.

24. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the resorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, and combinations thereof.

25. The invention according to claim 15, wherein the member is substantially cylindrical.

26. A method for joining a first phalange to a second adjacent phalange, comprising:

providing a bore in a distal end of the first phalange;

providing a bore in a proximal end of the second phalange;

providing a device comprising a substantially elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the middle portion has a curvature such that the first end portion and the second end portion are angled towards one another; and

inserting the device into the bore in the distal end of the first phalange and into the bore in the proximal end of the second phalange.

27. The invention according to claim 26, wherein the first phalange is selected from the group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

28. The invention according to claim 26, wherein the second phalange is selected from the group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.